VISIT…

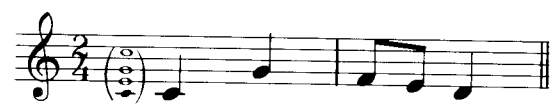
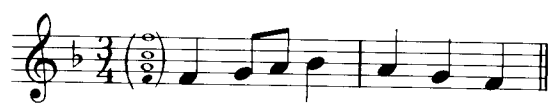
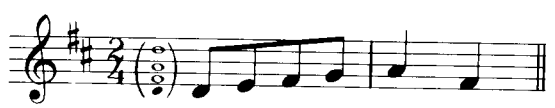
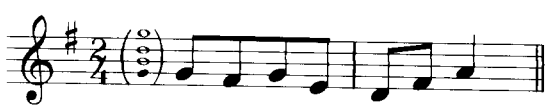
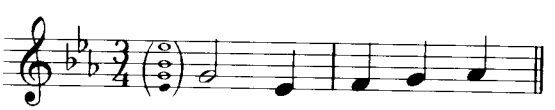
Test 2B: Echo singing

'To sing, as an echo, three short phrases limited to a range of five notes in a major key played by the examiner. The echoes should follow each phrase in strict time without an intervening pause. The key-chord and tonic will first be sounded and the pulse indicated.'

As in Grade 1, the aim of this test is to develop a good sense of pitch and a quick musical response. For this grade, the range of notes has been increased, but the memory span expectation remains the same (i.e. two bars).

The response, which is to echo the given melody, should continue with the pulse of the music without interruption so that the three phrases, each with their repeats, make up a continuous melodic line of 12 bars.

Pupils might imitate with different dynamic levels, e.g. play given part ***f***, pupil echoes ***mp***; but always the singing should be firm and with a strong feeling for the rhythm.

Practise first with one phrase to gain understanding and security. This will allow an immediate second attempt if the first has not been successful. This exercise can also be usefully practised with instrumental imitation, but remember it is the use of the voice as well as the memory which needs practice.

Here are examples of two-bar phrases to imitate.